

our public lands are preserved for future generations of Americans. The American people deserve leadership that fights back when the President seeks to cut thousands of jobs at the Department of the Interior or offers a budget that critically undermines the Department's mission and threatens our public lands.

The American people deserve leadership at the Department of the Interior—leadership that works for the people—and that is not David Bernhardt.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUNT). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, due to a family related matter in Michigan, I was unable to attend today's rollcall vote on the nomination of John K. Bush to be a United States circuit judge for the Sixth Circuit. Had I been able to attend, I would have opposed his nomination.

I also was unable to attend today's rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of David Bernhardt to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted no on the cloture motion.●

MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, July 22, 2017, marks the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, our Nation's landmark law designed to prevent and address homelessness. Many communities in my home State of Washington and across the country are confronting a surge in homeless and housing-insecure individuals, and the resources brought to bear by McKinney-Vento are essential to continued progress. The McKinney-Vento Act also marked the first time that Congress provided dedicated funding to ensure equal edu-

cational opportunities for children and youth who are experiencing homelessness. The law requires States and school districts to remove barriers that homeless children and youth face in receiving a high-quality education. In the years since the McKinney-Vento Act was passed, hundreds of thousands of young people experiencing homelessness have received the supports they need in order to attend school, graduate, and secure a well-paying job that can provide for their families.

I am proud to have introduced and seen enacted legislation to remove barriers and provide support to homeless children and youth, from early childhood through postsecondary education. Many of these laws have codified best practices pioneered by dedicated Washington State educators determined to make a difference for homeless children and youth.

I have fought and continue to fight for funding that makes a difference for homeless children and youth, veterans and other adults, and families experiencing homelessness. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the success of the McKinney-Vento Act and recognizing how far we still have to go in order to solve our homelessness crisis and make sure that every child in our country has access to a quality education no matter where they live, how they learn, or how much money their parents make.

RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO SERVED ON WAKE ISLAND

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the servicemembers and civilians who served on Wake Island in World War II, as the last gathering of the Survivors of Wake-Guam-Cavite, Inc., is scheduled to be held in Boise in September.

Survivors of the defense of Wake Island and their families have held annual reunions and other get-togethers for the last nearly 71 years. Idaho became home to annual reunions of Wake Island survivors and their families. Many of these gatherings have been organized by Alice Ingham, whose husband was on Wake Island, but since many Wake Island survivors have now, unfortunately, passed away, the organization has decided to wind down their reunions, noting, "We would like to honor all of our Wake men—the living, the deceased, and those who never made it home from the war—with this final reunion." The last worker from Idaho, Joe Goicoechea of Boise, passed away this past year.

The astounding Americans who served on Wake Island and their families are lasting examples of courage and resolve. The history of World War II and the bravery of the American servicemembers who fought for our Nation and its allies are familiar parts of our collective national history, but an often overlooked part of this legacy is the service of the civilian workers on Wake Island who were swept into the

war. The civilian workers, including many Idahoans, working for Morrison Knudsen Company, building infrastructure on the island, when it was attacked the same day as the attack on Pearl Harbor, immediately became soldiers. Their service cannot be forgotten. I thank all those who have helped keep the memories of those who served on Wake Island alive.

In Veterans Memorial Park in Boise, a memorial honoring Americans who served on Wake Island gives the following account: "Five hours after bombing Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941, Japanese forces attacked Wake Island, a tiny island midway between Hawaii and Japan. The United States was constructing a runway essential for planes to refuel on their way through the area. There were 449 Marines, 68 Sailors, 6 Army Air Corps, and 1146 civilians employed by the Boise-based Morrison Knudsen Company on the island. Approximately 250 of the MK workers were from Idaho. For 15 days the military and civilians bravely defended the island from the Japanese forces. Wake Island fell to the Japanese on December 23, 1941.

"Following the battle, 98 civilian construction workers were kept on Wake Island to labor for the Japanese. When their work was complete, they were forced to dig their own graves before being executed. The remaining defenders of the island, both military and civilian, were taken as prisoners of war by the Japanese and held for 44 months. These brave heroes endured exceedingly harsh conditions, serving as slave labor for the Japanese government in Japan and China. Many died in captivity. In 1981 the civilian MK employees were granted Veteran status in recognition of their service in the War of the Pacific . . ."

Those who survived and returned home have enriched our communities. Thank you to those who served on Wake Island and their families for the immeasurable service you have given to our country and for your enduring examples of devotion and strength.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR RICHARD E. HAGNER

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend MAJ Richard E. Hagner for his dedication to duty and service to the Nation as an Army congressional fellow and congressional budget liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army. Major Hagner was recently selected for the Army's prestigious Advanced Strategic Planning and Policy Program and will be transitioning from his present assignment to begin doctoral studies at Vanderbilt University.

A native of Milwaukee, WI, Major Hagner was commissioned as an infantry officer after his graduation from